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(insert)
[aperture] opening provided for the reception of the an insert [of the second member, or an insert to which the second member can be attached,] and, to form the joint, the first [and/]or second edges of the opening are moved to engage the insert within the aperture and wherein the opening [are moved to engage the second member or insert within the aperture] is formed by removing material from the first member to leave a band of material at said opening.

5. (Twice Amended) A mechanical joint according to claim 1 wherein said opening [aperture] is formed so as to extend from one side of the first member substantially across the majority of the first member to the opposite side leaving a band of material at the opposite side.

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6. (Twice Amended) A mechanical joint according to claim 1 wherein an insert is provided in said opening [aperture] and has upper and lower collars [formations] which protrude respectively above or below the first member.

9. (Twice Amended) A method of forming a mechanical joint, said method comprising [including] the following steps:

taking a first elongated member, forming an aperture depending from one edge of said member;

positioning a member or insert in the aperture; and

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moving [at least one portion of] the first member to move first and second edges of the opening towards one another to a degree [which is sufficient to prevent the insert or member from passing through the opening] to trap and engage the insert in the opening.

10. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 9 wherein said first and second edges are respectively moved so as to substantially close the opening and hence retain [said member or] insert in position in said aperture.

14. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 9 [12] wherein said former is an insert which is retained in position and to which said second member is connected.

Please cancel Claims ~~2, 7, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 17.~~

Please add new Claim 19 as follows:

--19. A mechanical joint according to Claim 1 wherein a forming means is provided initially in the opening and is subsequently moved out of the opening and replaced by the insert which is held in position in the opening in the first member to form the mechanical joint.--

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 23, 2002 has been fully considered by the Applicant.

Applicant will submit another declaration because of its illegibility as requested by the Examiner.

The initial rejection of Claims 1 through 8 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §112 has been addressed by amendments to the claims.

The rejection of Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 9 and 10, as now amended, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Cruson is respectfully traversed.